

Missouri Western State University
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
ENG 220-01 Introduction to Reading Texts
Class meets 11 am TT Eder 210
Spring 2007

Instructor Information

Dr. Karen U. Fulton, Professor
Tel: 271-4317(work) 1-660-582-8830 (home)
E-mail: fulton@missouriwestern.edu
Office: Eder Hall 222-H
Office Hours: 10-12 and 1:30-3:30 Monday; 1:30-3:30 Tuesday; other times by appointment.

Final Examination

Gardner, Janet E. Beverly Lawn, Jack Ridl, and Peter Schakel. *Literature: A Portable Anthology*.
Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004.
Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook, 6th edition*. New York: MLA, 2003.

Other Required Supplies

Access to word processor with spell-checker; all written work must be word-processed.
Access to Internet for postings on O/P-drive and research.
A 3-ring binder (spine no greater than 1/2") for submission of end of semester portfolio.

English 220 objectives

English 220 fulfills Category IV General Studies requirements. All English 210 (and 220) sections provide practice in reading poetry, prose fiction, and drama. Objectives are listed on <http://www.mwsc.edu/~engdept/genstud.html>.

Upon completion of English 210 [or 220] a student should be able to:

1. Recognize the major characteristics of literary genres
2. Discuss literature, orally and in writing, with assurance
3. Appreciate literary works encountered
4. Understand the different ways in which literary theme may be treated in literature.

Means: To reach these goals, the student is expected to:

1. Read poetry, fiction, and drama
2. Investigate various methods of approaching and understanding literature
3. Write papers, including themes and essay examinations
4. Read a variety of literary works in which a chosen theme is dominant.

Course Policies

Attendance

In order to improve student learning as well as to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100-level classes and 200-level for Fall 2007.

Sanctioned absences are those in which the student is serving as a representative of the college. All non-sanctioned absences will be recorded. The maximum number of unsanctioned absences allowed for this class before the midterm report is 3. Thus, when you have 4 unexcused absences you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class. The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate. This policy applied after the mid-term as well as prior to the midterm.

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure for the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report Forms.

Please see the 2006-2007 Student Handbook and Calendar on page 21 for specifics activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at

Student Disability Policy

Students who have a disability that might prevent their maximum performance in the class should make this known to the instructor immediately so that provisions may be made for any assistance needed.

Grading Policies

Mid-term grades

Because this class is graded by portfolio, no grades are in place at mid-term; therefore the mid-term grade will be a means of the instructor communicating with you your status in the class. If you receive anything other than the commonly agreed upon grade, you owe it to yourself to find out why.

Final grade

The grade for this class will be determined on the basis of a portfolio, due April 17.

This portfolio will consist of at least three finished and revised pieces of writing (in addition to the self-reflective essay). One piece must have begun as a class assignment and be designated the class demonstration paper. At the designated final session (May 8 11 am) you will present your portfolio.

Missing this class carries a heavy penalty—failure for the course.

Portfolio

During the first two weeks of class, more detailed portfolio specifications will be placed on the O/P drive of handed out and previous portfolios will be brought to class. You will self-grade your own portfolio when you submit it. I will meet with you individually to grade the portfolio and we will record that conference. You then have the option of revising and resubmitting the portfolio. You have only **one** opportunity to resubmit a portfolio.

Minimal Passing Standards for the Course

In order to pass (grade of "D") the class the student must complete all major written assignments; submit a self-graded portfolio on the due date; not have more than 6 absences for the semester; attend the scheduled portfolio conference; and participate in the final session.

Failure to complete any one of these results in failure for the course.

Miscellaneous Policies

Fastwriting (freewriting)

Classes will frequently begin with a short fastwriting in response to the literature assigned for that day. Bruce Ballenger defines this technique as encouraging us to think *through* writing rather than *before* writing. "Basically you just write down whatever come into your head, not worrying about whether you're being eloquent, grammatical, or even very smart." (*Curious Researcher* 1).

Word Processing

In order to facilitate publishing, all drafts of papers (including the summaries of the oral reports) must be word-processed.

Deadline for written work

Papers are scheduled so I can do three readings of your work and return a response to you at the next class period if at all possible. The first paper will be discussed with you in a recorded conference. If the work does not come in at the time assigned, it may not be returned to you until the end of the semester. Credit will not be given until the instructor has commented on the work.

Feedback Mode

Letter grades are not given on the major writing assignments. Instead feedback is given by way conferencing, written comments on your paper and, perhaps a rough ranking of your paper. These indicators are not convertible to letter grades. I welcome conferences with anyone who has questions about the paper, the conference or how the paper might fit into a final portfolio.

Minimal Standards for Projects

Any project will be returned unread and with no credit if required materials are not submitted and correct word-processing, formatting, and spell checking have not been completed.

Written Publication

After we finish the drama paper, you will revise and reformat your creative piece to be included in a booklet of writings from the class. Format will be available on the O/P drive.

Calendar

This is a rough estimation of what we will be working on at any given time. When we begin each section (as in the case of Poetry), you will receive a much more detailed calendar of which texts we will be reading.

Section 1

January 16-February 15 Poetry--/First paper due 2/20/07

February 20-March 8 Drama – Paper due March 20, 2007

March 20-March 29 Fiction

March 29-April 17, 2007 Portfolio Work PORTFOLIO DUE April 17, 2007

Final exam is Tuesday, May 8, at 11 am.